

middle ages. In Julian Berners' Book of St. Albans are found listed the virtues of these knights. These include his duties to God--reverence, gratitude, faithfulness; his duties to his sovereign--obedience and fear of offending; his duty to his country in time of war--readiness to engage in a just quarrel, wisdom in conflict, bravery, courteous treatment of prisoners; his duty in time of peace--charity, chivalry, justice, hospitality; his duty to himself and associates--cleanliness, temperance, courtesy, purity in thought, word, and deed, honor.¹

The sixteenth century favored the active against the contemplative life; the ideal service was in public office striving for the common rather than private good and for the preservation of the state and the welfare of its constituents.²

The content of Lord Chesterfield's Letters to His Son will be compared with the content of the conduct books previously mentioned, under the following heads: education; character, manners; accomplishments; and pleasures.

In the early part of the sixteenth century, learning was considered not only useless but harmful in that it reduced the valor of a man by making him effeminate and fearful and more inclined to enjoy the ease of the study than to endure the hardships of camp.³ Machiavelli in Il Principe definitely states the importance of military preparedness, "A prince, then, is to have no other design, nor thought, nor study but war and the arts and disciplines

1. Doctrine of English Gentleman, pp 70 f.

2. op. cit., p 59.

3. op. cit., p 112.